

10th September 2019



Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been a few years since we have had to connect with you around this issue but, as you are likely already aware, the haze has unfortunately returned to Singapore. In communications sent out in previous academic years, we have informed our community that we follow the National Environment Agency (NEA), Ministry of Education (MOE) and Ministry of Health guidelines and advice with respect to air quality and the actions that schools should take. Singapore international schools and the sporting association (ACSIS) our teams play within also share information so that we are as aligned as possible.

As a reminder to our returning parents (and new information for our new parents), we monitor the NEA information regularly for the current haze status in our location, which includes the 24-hour and 3-hour ranges (inclusive of PM2.5). While we are aware there are other websites and phone applications that track readings, Chatsworth will continue to use official readings from the NEA. For purposes of our monitoring, Orchard is in the 'South' region while Bukit Timah is in 'Central'. Current conditions place both locations in the "moderate" range with outdoor activities continuing as normal.

As in previous years, if the haze should reach the "unhealthy" range during school hours, staff will be informed to cease strenuous outdoor physical activity (PE classes, playtime activities, outdoor field trips, CCAs/ECAs, ACSIS sporting events) and students will be kept indoors as much as possible. All of our staff who work outdoors will be issued with the recommended N95 masks and, should the levels rise beyond the unhealthy range, their work will be limited to only essential services. In the unlikely event that the levels reach a hazardous range, the school will discuss possible closure in consultation with local authorities, agencies and other schools.

Staff are already keeping a close watch on students whose parents have indicated (on school admission health forms) a respiratory or medical condition that could make them more susceptible to deteriorating air quality. With that, should any child show signs of distress, they would receive immediate care from the School Nurse and parents would be notified.

Should you have any questions about school health, please do not hesitate to contact the school Nurse of the school offices.

Sincerely,

Tyler Sherwood
Head of Schools

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